4th March 1955]

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is it a fact that the South Kanara District Board is entitled to a grant of Rs. 2,31,242 towards the payment of Dearness Allowance to the staff during the years 1952–53, 1953–54 and 1954–55 and, if so, why was not that grant given? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" We have paid Rs. 50,000 as an advance against the grant."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" I request that this question may be taken up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes."

Opening of rural dispensaries in South Arcot.

* 1098 *Q.*—SRI M. VENUGOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the South Arcot District Board submitted to Government in 1953, a list of places in the district where rural dispensaries might be opened; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The South Arcot District Board and other local bodies were informed that they should see that the provision of every existing subsidised rural dispensary which was kept closed for three months was diverted for opening a rural dispensary in some other suitable place before applying to Government for fresh Government subsides for Rural Medical Practitioners and maternity assistants. In 1954, the Special Officer, the District Board, South Arcot, reported that there was no subsidised rural dispensary remaining closed for three months under the District Board and forwarded proposals for new Government subsidies for Rural Medical Practitioners and maternity assistant. These proposals are under consideration."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions are over. The hon. Member Sri Narayana Kurup has given notice of a motion under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules." 9-30 a.m.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MOTION UNDER RULE 40 OF THE MADRAS ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OF PRODUCERS'-*CUM*-CONSUMERS' SOCIETIES IN MALABAR.

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar are facing a crisis after decontrol and the Government have been taking steps to reorganize them. A question answered on the floor of the House to-day showed that before the Government Co-operative

Department assumed full control of the societies, certain conditions have to be fulfilled that they should not deal in foodgrains and that their dues to the Government should be settled. These are the two important conditions and the societies have been asking the Government to expedite the settlement of dues by and against the Government. In answering a question on the 21st December 1954 it was revealed that the claims put forth by the societies was Rs. 54,00,044–1–4 and the Government answered that in the last two years settlement of claims was effected only to the tune of Rs. 2,22,059–5–6 and the balance of Rs. 51,77,984–11–0 still remained to be settled. Now, Sir, the functioning of the societies is at a standstill because the dues of the Government have not been settled and the societies have not been brought under the full administrative control of the Co-operative Department. They have to maintain their staff and other employees and they are incurring losses. Moreover, there is another factor which is responsible for their incurring losses. Their stocks are not disposed of and the Government claim interest at 4 per cent against this value while they give no counter-interest to the societies. This fact was brought to the notice of the Government. The matter, of course, is a very intricate one and requires special consideration. However, longer delay means that the societies will go into liquidation. It has been pointed out even to-day that some of the societies have already gone into liquidation. These are useful institutions built up in the course of six or seven years and they have got large reserve funds and profits. The continuance of this state of affairs will further endanger their existence and these good societies will go into liquidation for no fault of theirs, but due to the slow way in which the Government are moving in the matter. I request that the Government may be pleased to expedite the matter as far as possible and see that these societies are enabled to stand on their own legs and that the Co-operative Department assumes full control."

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make the following statement which would explain the position regarding the settlement of claims of these Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Societies in Malabar :—

' The total number of claims received by the Collector in the first instance was 1,338. Out of this, till 27th November 1954, 79 claims were disposed of so that there was still on that date 1,259 claims. Again, 166 more claims were received making a total of 1,425. Out of these 1,425 claims, 704 claims were also disposed of finally leaving a balance of 721 claims. Out of these 721 claims, 200 claims have been subsequently disposed of by the Collector of Malabar during the period from 15th January 1955 to 12th February 1955, leaving a balance of 521. Sir, since then about 120 more claims have been settled and there are only about 400 claims pending now.

Out of the 107 Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Societies in Malabar, the claims of 39 societies amounting to Rs. 10,34,930 have been settled in full. In respect of the remaining 68 societies, the claims have been partly settled and the work is in steady progress. Out of the total claim of the above societies amounting to about Rs. 59 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 31·6 lakhs has been sanctioned in the claims so far settled and claims amounting to about Rs. 27·4 lakhs are pending settlement.

The claims of the societies mainly fall under the following categories :—

(*a*) Subsidy on Orissa rice

(*b*) Subsidy on fine rice

(*c*) Compensation in the shortages noticed in Vijayavada consignments of 1953

(*d*) Value of stocks transferred to the other districts

(*e*) Cleaning charges, etc.

Claims under (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above are pending final orders by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies). The Board is taking necessary action to expedite the settlement of these claims. In order to dispose of the outstanding claims expeditiously, the Collector of Malabar has allocated the work to the additional Personal Assistant and the District Supply Officer for local verification and final settlement. These officers are busily engaged in the above work.

It is not possible to furnish the details of each case as there are about 400 claims pending settlement. The Government are taking all possible steps to settle all outstanding claims as quickly as possible.

As regards the complaint that 'the Government collect interest on the value of unliquidated stocks for no fault of the societies', it may be stated that the procedure followed by the Government in respect of collection of interest in Civil Supplies transactions is as follows :—

In Government transactions, the basic principle is that interest is given for the period involved in settling the claims preferred by the wholesalers, retailers, etc. In Civil Supplies matters, interest is given for the stocks held on outright purchase, for periods in excess of three months. This is in view of the fact that the profit margin allowed to them includes provision for interest charges to be incurred by them for the first three months. In the case of the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar district, the cost of the grain is not collected in advance but profit in full is allowed as in other districts. Since the Societies do not incur interest charges in respect of which there is provision in the profit margin, they should pay interest to the Government for amounts not paid in advance up to the period of three months. Consumers' Co-operative Societies are, therefore, charged interest

for amounts not paid in advance up to the period of three months. As and when amounts are paid by the sale of stocks, the interest is correspondingly reduced. If the stocks remain unsold beyond three months, no interest is charged for the reason that, if such interest is charged, Government will have to give them interest for stocks held over three months. One will cancel the other. No interest is paid on account of delay in settling the claims from the Societies, as it is not the practice to do so in Civil Supplies transactions and, if interest is granted to Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, on amounts due by Government, the same will have to be done in the case of other merchants also.'

"I would, therefore, request the hon. Member to tell these societies that the Government are taking all expeditious steps to take over the stocks entirely and settle the claims."

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1955-56—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER :—"I must tell the House that the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture will intervene in the debate on the Budget and make a statement at about 11 a.m."

9-39 a.m. * SRI G. GOVINDAN :—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, ஒரு ஆட்சேபணை. நான்கு நாட்களாக எவ்வளவோ பேர்களை பேச தாங்கள் அழைத்தும் என்னுடைய பெயர் முன்கூட்டியே கொடுத்தும் இன்னும் வராததற்கு காரணம் தெரியவில்லை. ஸ்ரீமான் முத்துராமலிங்கத் தேவர் ஸ்ரீமான் முத்தைய செட்டியார் இவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் அரை மணி நேரம் அவகாசம் கொடுத்ததற்குக் காரணம் என்ன என்று தயவுசெய்து தெரிவிக்கவேண்டுமாய்க் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

MR. SPEAKER:—"ஸ்ரீமான் முத்தையா செட்டியாரும், ஸ்ரீமான் முத்துராமலிங்க தேவரும் பேசும்பொழுது நான் இங்கு இல்லை. யார் அவர்களுக்கு அனுமதி கொடுத்தார்களோ அவர்களைத் தயவுசெய்து கேளுங்கள்.

"சபையிலுள்ள 231 அங்கத்தினர்களும் பேசவேண்டுமென்றால் அது அசாத்தியமான காரியம். எல்லோரும் பேச முடியாது என்பதை தயவுசெய்து நீங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். அப்படி வேண்டுமானால் பொது விவாதத்திற்கே ஒரு மாதம் ஒதுக்கவேண்டும். அது சாத்தியமில்லை."

* SRI G. GOVINDAN :—"மேற்படி இரண்டு அங்கத்தினர்களும் பேசும்பொழுது தாங்கள் இல்லாவிட்டாலும் தங்கள் அதிகாரத்திற்கு கீழ்ப்பட்ட உதவி சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள் . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—"இங்கு யார் தலைமை வகிக்கிறார்களோ அவர்கள் சட்டசபை விதிகளுக்குட்பட்டு என்னவேண்டுமானாலும் செய்யலாம். என்னைக் கேட்டுச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்ற முறை கிடையாது."

* SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—"Mr. Speaker, may I know what is the signifiance behind the statement of the Chair that the Hon. Minister for Agriculture will intervene in the debate. I do not know whether he is going to participate in the debate as any other hon. Member of this House."